

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

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DRAFTED BY ARA- LA/ PAN: SMOREYBELLGFH

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APPROVED BY ARA ROBERT A. HURWITCH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, UN

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF UNSC MEETING

1. PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ REVILLA RAISED WITH COUNTRY DIRECTOR APRIL 11 THE MATTER OF FOREIGN MINISTER TACK'S " APPARENT DISCOURTESY" IN NOT ARRANGING TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DURING HIS SOJOURN IN WASHINGTON FOR OAS SESSIONS. GONZALEZ EXPLAINED HE HAD PROPOSED TO TACK THAT THEY INVITE SEVERAL OFFICIALS TO HIS RESIDENCE FOR " A FRIENDLY CHAT" BUT TACK HAD DECIDED AGAINST, ON THE GROUNDS THAT " THE US OFFICIALS WOULD INEVITABLY INQUIRE ' WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ' AND PANAMA HAD NO ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION YET". TACK ALSO FELT, GONZALEZ ADDED, THAT " IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO MEET WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS SO SOON AFTER THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING".

2. COUNTRY DIRECTOR COMMENTED ONLY THAT USG OFFICIALS WOULD NOT HAVE FELT IT INAPPROPRIATE TO TALK INFORMALLY WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

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3. GONZALEZ SUBSEQUENTLY VOLUNTEERED THAT " MANY PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS, FROM THE GENERAL ON DOWN, FEEL

THAT THE AMERICANS' PUBLIC REVELATION OF THE ALLEGED THREAT TO SCALI WAS A VERY LOW BLOW WHICH HAS DONE PANAMA A LOT OF DAMAGE IN TERMS OF PRESTIGE". COUNTRY DIRECTOR COMMENTED THAT THE " REVELATION" HAD NOT BEEN INTENDED AS A BLOW OF ANY SORT AT PANAMA; ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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